

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims of the application is provided below.

Claims 1-7: (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) An antibody which recognizes a polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 and has pre-B cell growth-supporting ability and wherein the antibody is other than the monoclonal antibody produced by the hybridoma deposited under the accession number FERM BP-5233.

9. (Previously Presented) The antibody of Claim 8, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

10. (Previously Presented) The antibody of Claim 9, wherein the antibody is an antibody produced by the hybridoma deposited under the accession number FERM BP-4433.